

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) [[An]] A method of deactivating a virus, comprising treating a virus with an antiviral fiber, wherein

fine particles of a metal and/or a metal compound are dispersed in the fiber;

the fiber has a cross-linked structure and a carboxyl group in a molecule thereof; and

the fine particles have ~~deactivation effect to a virus and~~ poor solubility in water.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of deactivating a virus ~~antiviral fiber~~ according to Claim 1, wherein at least a part of the carboxyl group exists as a salt.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of deactivating a virus ~~antiviral fiber~~ according to Claim 1, wherein the metal ~~and/or metal compound~~ is at least one kind selected from a group consisting of Ag, Cu, Zn, Al, Mg, and Ca, ~~and a metal compound thereof and the metal compound~~ is at least one kind selected from a group consisting of oxides, hydroxides, chlorides, bromides, iodides, carbonates, sulphates, phosphates, chlorates, bromates, iodates, sulfites, thiosulfates, thiocyanates, pyrophosphates, polyphosphates, silicates, aluminates, tungstates, vanadates, molybdates, antimonates, benzoates and dicarboxylates of the metal.
4. (Currently Amended) The method of deactivating a virus ~~antiviral fiber~~ according to Claim 1, wherein the metal and/or metal compound is included at not less than 0.2 mass% as a metal in the fiber component.
5. (Currently amended) [[An]] A method of deactivating a virus, comprising treating a virus with an antiviral textile product, wherein the antiviral textile product contains ~~comprising~~

the antiviral fiber according to Claim 1, ~~and in cottony cotton~~ shape, non-woven fabric shape, textile shape, paper shape, or knitted fabric shape.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of deactivating a virus ~~antiviral textile product~~ according to Claim 5, wherein the metal and/or metal compound is included at not less than 0.2 mass% as a metal in whole of the fiber component.

7. (Withdrawn) A method for producing an antiviral fiber, comprising:

bonding a metal ion of a metal having deactivation effect to a virus and poor solubility in water to at least a part of a carboxyl group of a fiber having a cross-linked structure and a carboxyl group in a molecule thereof; and

then depositing fine particles of the metal and/or metal compound in the fiber by reduction and/or substitution reaction.

8. (Withdrawn) The method for producing an antiviral fiber according to Claim 7, comprising:

using a fiber, wherein the fiber has a cross-linked acrylic fiber as a basic skeleton and at least a part of a functional group of a molecule of the cross-linked acrylic fiber is hydrolyzed, as the fiber having a cross-linked structure and having a carboxyl group in a molecule thereof;

bonding the metal ion of a metal to at least a part of the carboxyl group;

then depositing fine particles of the metal and/or metal compound in the fiber by reduction and/or substitution reaction.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of deactivating a virus ~~antiviral fiber~~ according to Claim 2, wherein the metal and/or metal compound is included at not less than 0.2 mass% as a metal in the fiber component.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of deactivating a virus ~~antiviral fiber~~ according to Claim 3, wherein the metal and/or metal compound is included at not less than 0.2 mass% as a metal in the fiber component.